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NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE REPAIRING AIRCRAFT

NAVAL AIR PACIFIC REPAIR ACTIVITY CHANGE OF COMMAND JUNE 29, 2001



CDR Freer congratulates CDR Berkin, NAPRA's new Commanding Officer.



CDR Berkin, RDML Heilman, and CDR Freer render honors.



NAPRA's new Commanding Officer, CDR Berkin, addresses the audience.



CDR Freer receives the Meritorious Service Medal from RDML Heilman.

Commander Michael G. Berkin relieved Commander Dorothy J. Freer as Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Air Pacific Repair Activity (NAPRA) Atsugi in a ceremony held at the Japan Aircraft Manufacturing Company, Ltd. (NIPPI) main hangar on 29 June.

NAPRA, a NAVAIR Echelon III command and tenant command of NAF Atsugi, maintains and operates U.S. Navy facilities and executes contracts to perform depot level rework on designated weapon systems, support equipment, and associated components in support of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aircraft in the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean theaters. Its headquarters is located at Atsugi and it has detachments in Okinawa; Naples, Italy; Korea; Singapore; and Australia.

CDR Freer assumed command of NAPRA on 14 December 1999. Under her leadership, NAPRA completed 82 Standard Depot Level Maintenance inductions, 1400 in service repairs, 260 customer service orders, 1300 aircraft modifications, eight Integrated Maintenance Concept inductions, and 141 Aircraft Service Period Adjustments. Additionally, she spearheaded all aspects for the generation of a 5-year, \$90 million

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THE GLOBAL CHOICE FOR DEPOT SUPPORT



CO'S PERSPECTIVE

By CDR MICHAEL G. BERKIN

Upon taking command of NAPRA on 29 June, I have been pleased to see that things have not slowed down for us. NAPRA continues to provide outstanding support to our deployed Fleet customer, and the Fleet is accommodating us by keeping us continuously busy. It doesn't get any better than this for a Maintainer.

As CO, I thought it was important to sit down early with each of our employees at NAPRA and discuss foundational principles and reemphasize our mission. Our people are our most important asset, each employee is important to our Team's success, and safely supporting the Fleet is our reason for being. I want our hallmark to be excellence in everything we do, whether it be repairing aircraft and support equipment, preparing correspondence, or conducting ourselves personally and professionally.

NAPRA has always excelled at performing emergent repair through its in service repair (ISR). Our NAPRA Detachment Okinawa has just completed fielding two teams of artisans and P&E on board two separate carriers in the Persian Gulf. Our scheduled maintenance has undergone a change as we begin to transition from SDLMs to the Integrated Maintenance Concept (IMC). We continue to introduce new IMC repair processes into NAPRA. In addition to the "short" Planned Maintenance Interval (PMI-2) repair for *F/A-18* that NIPPI is perfecting, we have inducted the first of a series of PMI-1 "long" phase *F/A-18* IMC repairs. This is the first of these types of repairs done outside of NADEP NI. In July, we began the first field phase IMC repair for the *E-2C* aircraft done outside

CONUS and will successfully complete it on schedule in mid-September. Additionally, we are beginning to conduct a major modification for all the *S-3*'s (CAINS II) that will probably continue throughout the next FY.

We're also making major progress on our Information Technology (IT) front. After a year and a half of development, we are hoping to field a management information system called NAPRA TRAKKER sometime this fall. NAPRA is also leading the way in IT security issues. After grappling for two years with the issue of how to allow our Master Labor Contract (MLC) and Italian national employees sufficient access to IT systems while maintaining proper security restrictions required by DoD instructions, NAPRA hosted an IT Summit in August to work out a solution. After careful review, a team comprised of both NAPRA and AIR-7.4 personnel devised a six-point plan to reconfigure our

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FALL 2001 NAPRA TIMES PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. NAVAL AIR PACIFIC REPAIR ACTIVITY

**Commander Michael G. Berkin, USN
Commanding Officer**

**Commander Richard J. Dorn, USN
Executive Officer**

**Commander Francis C. Lukenbill, USN
Officer in Charge, Det Naples**

**Lieutenant Commander David A. Maybury, USN
Officer in Charge, Det Okinawa**

**SKCS Jeffrey R. Clark
Senior Enlisted Advisor**

**John W. Leach
Editor**

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Class Justification and Approval (J&A) for sole source procurement of emergency and standard depot level repair of all WESTPAC U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aircraft. Additionally, NAPRA set up capability to perform Integrated Maintenance Concept (IMC) repair for eight different type/model/series aircraft at Atsugi and its detachments. These efforts provided increased operational readiness and capability for nine carrier battle groups, four amphibious readiness groups, and numerous shore-based squadrons.

CDR Freer's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as well as other personal and unit awards. She has 1600 flight hours in five different models of aircraft.

Hailing from Yardley, Pa., CDR Berkin earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and was commissioned through the Navy ROTC program in March 1981. He was designated as an Aeronautical Maintenance Duty Officer (AMDO) and attended AMDO school in Memphis, Tenn. and the Joint Aviation Supply Maintenance and Material Management school in Athens, Ga.

In September 1981, Berkin reported to Strike Aircraft Test Directorate, NATC Patuxent River, Md., where he served as the Attack Aircraft Division Officer. He transferred across the base in June 1982 to the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) where he served both as the Aircraft Division Officer and the Avionics/Armament Division Officer. In September 1983, Berkin transferred to *Patrol Squadron TWENTY THREE (VP-23)*, where he served as Material Control Officer and Maintenance Control Officer. He made deployments to the Caribbean; Sigonella, Italy; and Rota, Spain/Lajes, Portugal. He joined *Attack Squadron EIGHT ONE (VA-81)*, NAS Cecil Field, Fla., in September 1986, where he served as the Quality Assurance Officer. He was then selected to serve as the *CVW-17* Detachment Officer in Charge where he was responsible for all aspects of a 30-person detachment providing corrosion control and minor repair of seventeen *CVW-17* aircraft during *USS Saratoga's (CV-60)* 1987 Mediterranean deployment. After the cruise, *VA-81* transitioned to *VFA-81*. For the remainder of his tour, Berkin served as the As-

sistant Maintenance Officer and *F/A-18C* Aircraft Transition Coordinator for the newly designated squadron.

After attending the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and receiving his Master of Science Degree in Material Logistics, CDR Berkin reported to Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, D.C. Here, he served as the Assistant Program Manager for Logistics for the *C-20* aircraft procurement, *X-31* experimental aircraft development, and the Navy Integrated Electronic Warfare System (NINEWS). He also developed a Unified Numbering System for the *V-22* program upon which all logistical data for that aircraft would be based. Additionally, he authored the Consolidated Hazardous Material Reutilization and Inventory Management Program (CHRIMP) manual, which is the standard in the Fleet for consolidating hazardous material at centralized distribution centers.

In July 1994, Berkin reported to *USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70)* as the Maintenance/Material Control Officer in AIMD, making parts of both the 1994 and 1996 WESTPAC/IO deployments. He also served as the ship's Battle Force Intermediate Maintenance Activity Coordinator and ship's Change of Homeport Coordinator. In September 1996, he transferred to *Patrol Wing FIVE* as the Assistant Maintenance Officer and then became the AIMD Officer at NAS Brunswick, Maine, in February 1997. During this tour, his AIMD was awarded the 1998 *Margaret Chase Smith* Award for Quality Commitment. He reported to NAPRA in December 1999 as Executive Officer.

CDR Berkin's personal decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. He is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community.

Berkin is married to the former Shirley Kay Johnson of West Chester, Penn.; they are blessed with four children: Amanda, Sarah, James, and Matthew.

NAPRA's Executive Officer, CDR Richard Dorn, most recently was the AIMD Officer at NAS Norfolk, Va. He is married to the former Denise Grohe of Duxbury, Mass. They have one daughter, Rachel.